

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 6 has been cancelled. Claim 4 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 6. The amendments to claim 4 are further supported at page 6, lines 11-13 of the present specification. Changes made to the claims by the current Amendment are shown in the attached "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

§ 102 Rejections

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sensi, U.S. 4,746,347. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 4 requires that a surface of a glass ribbon is made uneven with a roller for lifting the glass ribbon out of the float bath or a conveyance roller in an annealing furnace. As the former was in claims 6 and found to be allowable, the rejection is moot for this aspect of claim 4. Sensi discloses a patterned float glass in which a pattern is formed in the glass using an imprinting means 20 that engages a top surface of the float glass. The glass is transferred through a cooling zone 15 using a molten metal 9 and further conveyed out of the forming chamber on lift-out rolls 26. The imprinting means 20 does not function as a float glass conveyor, nor is imprinting means 20 intended to perform any function besides imprinting a pattern on a top surface of the float glass. Thus, the imprinting means 20 of Sensi also does not suggest the "conveyance roller in an annealing furnace," aspect of claim 4.

Claim 4 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamitachi, JP 57-17851. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As noted above, the "roller for lifting the glass ribbon out of the float bath" aspect of claim 4 is allowable over Kamitachi. Kamitachi discloses rolling molten glass 3 between a pair of shaping rollers 4, 4' and cooling the resulting sheet glass 8 on a support of molten metal bath 16 that conveys the sheet glass while it cools. The shaping rollers simultaneously shape the molten glass into a sheet and form a pattern in the glass sheet. Separate conveyance rollers 6 transport the glass sheet 8. Conveyance rollers 6 do not make a surface of the glass sheet uneven or form a pattern in the glass sheet. Thus, the shaping rollers of Kamitachi also do not suggest the "conveyance roller in an annealing furnace" aspect of claim 4.

§ 103 Rejections

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable Sensi in view of Callister, Material Science and Engineering: An Introduction, pg. 434. Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamitachi in view of Edwards, U.S. 3,681,042. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Callister and Edwards fail to remedy the deficiencies of Sensi as it relates to claim 4. Therefore, claims 5 and 7 are allowable for at least the reason they are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicants do not concede the correctness of these rejections.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

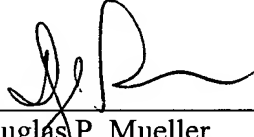
Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
612.332.5300

Date

June 16, 2005





Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM:JNR:PSTdm:ae

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Claim 6 has been cancelled.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a glass sheet with the float glass method by forming molten raw glass material on a metal bath into a glass ribbon, the method comprising:

making a surface of the glass ribbon uneven by bringing said surface into contact with a roller arranged downstream from the metal bath in a conveyance direction of the glass ribbon[.],
wherein said roller is a roller for lifting the glass ribbon out of the float bath or a conveyance roller in an annealing furnace.